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Human Rights Council
Thirty-fifth session
Agenda items 3, 4, 7, 9 and 10
Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development

Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

Human rights situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories

Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance, follow-up to and implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

Technical assistance and capacity-building

Communications report of Special Procedures*

Communications sent, 1 December 2016 to 28 February 2017; Replies received, 1 February to 30 April 2017

Joint report by the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context; the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of human rights by persons with albinism; the Working Group of Experts on people of African descent; the Working Group on arbitrary detention; the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus; the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Cambodia; the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Central African Republic; the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights; the Independent expert on the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order; the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea; the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities; the Special Rapporteur on the right to education; the Special Rapporteur on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment; the Working Group on enforced or involuntary disappearances; the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea;

* The present report is circulated as received.

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the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights; the Special Rapporteur on the right to food; the Independent expert on the effects of foreign debt and other related international financial obligations of States on the full enjoyment of human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights; the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression; the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association; the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief; the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Haiti; the Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health; the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders; the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers; the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples; the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons; the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran; the Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination; the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants; the Special Rapporteur on minority issues; the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar; the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons; the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967; the Special Rapporteur on the right to privacy; the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance; the Special Rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children, including child prostitution, child pornography and other child sexual abuse material; the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences; the Independent Expert on the situation on human rights in the Sudan; the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions; the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism; the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment; the Special Rapporteur on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes; the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children; the Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation & guarantees of non-recurrence; the Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises; the Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of the unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights; Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity; the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences; the Working Group on the issue of discrimination against women in law and in practice; and the Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation.

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Abbreviations

African Descent	Working Group of Experts on people of African descent
Albinism	Independent Expert on the enjoyment of human rights by persons with albinism
Arbitrary detention	Working Group on Arbitrary Detention
Belarus	Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus
Burundi	Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Burundi
Business enterprises	Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises
Cambodia	Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Cambodia
Central Africa	Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Central African Republic
Côte d'Ivoire	Independent Expert on capacity-building and technical cooperation with Côte d'Ivoire in the field of human rights
Cultural Rights	Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights
Development	Special Rapporteur on the right to development
Disability	Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities
Disappearances	Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances
Discrimination against women	Working Group on the issue of discrimination against women in law and in practice
DPR Korea	Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea
Education	Special Rapporteur on the right to education
Environment	Special Rapporteur on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment
Eritrea	Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea
Extreme poverty	Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights
Food	Special Rapporteur on the right to food
Foreign debt	Independent expert on the effects of foreign debt and other related international financial obligations of States on the full enjoyment of human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights
Freedom of expression	Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression
Freedom of peaceful assembly and of association	Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association
Freedom of religion	Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief
Haiti	Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Haiti
Hazardous substances and wastes	Special Rapporteur on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes
Health	Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health
Human rights defenders	Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders
Housing	Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context

Independence of judges and lawyers	Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers
Indigenous peoples	Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples
Internally displaced persons	Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons
International order	Independent expert on the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order
International Solidarity	Independent Expert on Human Rights and International solidarity
Iran	Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran
Mali	Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Mali
Mercenaries	Working Group on the use of mercenaries
Migrants	Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants
Minority issues	Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues
Myanmar	Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar
OPT	Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967
Older persons	Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons
Privacy	Special Rapporteur on the right to privacy
Racism	Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance
Sale of children	Special Rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children, including child prostitution, child pornography and other child sexual abuse material
Sexual orientation and gender identity	Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity
Slavery	Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery
Somalia	Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Somalia
Sudan	Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Sudan
Summary executions	Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions
Terrorism	Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism
Torture	Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment
Trafficking	Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children
Truth justice, reparation & guarantees on non-recurrence	Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation & guarantees of non-recurrence
Unilateral coercive measures	Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights
Violence against women	Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences
Water and Sanitation	Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation

Other abbreviations

AL	Letter of allegation
JAL	Joint letter of allegation

JUA	Joint urgent appeal
UA	Urgent appeal

I. Introduction

1. Special procedures are mandated by the Human Rights Council to report to it on their activities (see Appendix).

2. In 2009, the sixteenth annual meeting of special procedures mandate holders decided that a joint communications report would be prepared (cf. A/HRC/12/47, paras 24-26), with this decision being reconfirmed by the seventeenth annual meeting of special procedures in 2010 in order to avoid duplication, rationalize documentation, allow examination of cross cutting issues and ensure that the content of communications and any follow-up would feed into the universal periodic review mechanism more effectively. Mandate holders decided that the report should contain summaries of communications and statistical information (A/HRC/15/44, para. 26-27).

3. The Outcome of the review of the work and functioning of the Human Rights Council calls on the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to maintain information on special procedures in a comprehensive and easily accessible manner, and encourages the use of modern information technology to reduce the circulation of paper (A/HRC/RES/16/21, Annex, paras. 29 and 60).

4. All short summaries of allegations communicated to the respective State or other entity are made available on the Special Procedures communications website, link to which is included in paragraph 10 of the present report. The communications sent and responses received are also accessible electronically through hyperlinks. Communications are reproduced in the language in which they were sent. Replies received in Arabic, Chinese or Russian are included with translations into English, where available.

5. This website now reports all urgent appeals, and letters of allegations sent by special procedures mandate holders between 1 December 2016 and 28 February 2017 and replies received until 30 April 2017. Communications sent before 1 December 2016 are reported in A/HRC/34/75, A/HRC/33/32, A/HRC/33/32 corr.1, A/HRC/32/53, A/HRC/31/79, A/HRC/30/27, A/HRC/29/50, A/HRC/28/85, A/HRC/27/72, A/HRC/26/21, A/HRC/25/74, A/HRC/24/21, A/HRC/23/51, A/HRC/22/67, A/HRC/22/67 corr.1 and corr.2, A/HRC/21/49, A/HRC/20/30, A/HRC/19/44 and A/HRC/18/51 respectively are also made available on the dedicated website.

6. Also as part of this report, the special procedures communications website also includes replies received between 1 August 2016 and 31 January 2017 relating to communications sent by special procedures mandate holders before 1 June 2016. Some of these replies supplement information communicated earlier by the respective State.

7. The present report contains urgent appeals sent by the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention and the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances and joint urgent appeals sent by them together with other mandates. It does not contain other types of communications issued by these mandates, which are processed according to their own distinctive procedures, and are reported in the annual reports of these two working groups.

8. The names of some alleged victims have been obscured in order to protect their privacy and prevent further victimization. Names of victims who would otherwise have their identities protected are mentioned only when the individual concerned or their direct family has expressly consented or requested to have his or her name in the public report. In the original communications, the full names of the alleged victims were provided to the Government concerned. Names of alleged perpetrators have systematically been darkened in State replies to preserve the presumption of innocence.

9. In total 182 communications were sent during this reporting period to 58 countries to which replies were received from 35 countries as listed below:

Name of countries	*Number of communications sent*	*Replies received*
Afghanistan	1	0
Algeria	4	4
Argentina	1	1
Australia	1	1
Azerbaijan	1	1
Bahrain	3	3
Bangladesh	3	1
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	1	0
Brazil	3	1
Burundi	1	0
Cameroon	3	1
Canada	1	1
China	5	4
Colombia	1	1
Democratic Republic of the Congo	2	1
Ecuador	2	1
Egypt	4	2
El Salvador	1	0
Equatorial Guinea	1	0
Ethiopia	2	0
France	2	2
Gambia	1	0
Greece	1	1
Guatemala	2	1
Haiti	1	0
India	2	0
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	9	3
Iraq	1	0
Israel	2	0
Italy	1	1
Japan	1	1
Kazakhstan	2	2
Kenya	5	0
Lebanon	3	1
Libya	1	0
Malaysia	2	0
Malta	1	1

Mexico	1	0
Morocco	1	0
Myanmar	2	1
Nigeria	2	0
Norway	1	1
Pakistan	2	0
Philippines	4	1
Rwanda	1	0
Saudi Arabia	3	2
Serbia	1	0
South Sudan	1	0
Sri Lanka	1	1
Sudan	3	0
Thailand	1	1
Turkey	2	1
Ukraine	1	1
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	2	2
United Republic of Tanzania	1	0
United States of America	2	1
Uzbekistan	1	1
Viet Nam	2	1

10. These communications concerned 287 alleged victims of which 182 are male, 56 are female and 49 others.

11. In preparing the statistics included in this report, uniform reporting periods have been used, reflecting all communications sent between 1 December 2016 and 28 February 2017, and responses received in relation to these communications up to 30 April 2017.

Communications and replies by mandate

Mandate	Reporting period 1 December 2016 to 28 February 2017			Reporting period 1 June 2006 to 28 February 2017		
	Communications sent	replied to by 30 April 2017	response rate	Communications sent	replied to by 30 April 2017	response rate
African Descent	1	1	100%	22	14	64%
Albinism	0	0	0%	5	0	0%
Arbitrary Detention (+)	34	15	44%	1413	780	55%
Belarus*	0	0	0%	10	7	70%
Burundi**	0	0	0%	6	0	0%
Business	1	1	100%	86	48	56%
Cambodia	0	0	0%	31	6	19%
Central African Republic	0	0	0%	1	0	0%
Cultural rights	3	2	67%	76	55	72%
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	0	0	0%	9	1	11%
Disability	7	3	43%	36	18	50%
Disappearances (+)	15	5	33%	361	161	45%
Education	4	3	75%	72	45	63%
Environment	5	2	40%	57	31	54%
Eritrea	0	0	0%	2	0	0%
Executions	20	6	30%	1297	625	48%
Food	2	1	50%	222	91	41%
Foreign debt	2	1	50%	21	12	57%
Freedom of opinion and expression	50	22	44%	2776	1462	53%
Freedom of peaceful assembly and of association	37	17	46%	1045	605	58%
Haiti	1	0	0%	12	3	25%
Hazardous substances***	2	0	0%	74	46	62%
Health	21	9	43%	594	350	59%
Housing	7	5	71%	316	158	50%
Human rights defenders	47	21	45%	3038	1705	56%
Independence of judges and lawyers	2	0	0%	1148	630	55%
Indigenous peoples	10	4	40%	409	244	60%
Internally displaced persons	2	0	0%	24	10	42%
International order	2	1	50%	30	23	77%
International solidarity	0	0	0%	12	12	100%

Mandate	Reporting period 1 December 2016 to 28 February 2017			Reporting period 1 June 2008 to 28 February 2017		
	Communications sent	replied to by 30 April 2017	response rate	Communications sent	replied to by 30 April 2017	response rate
Islamic Republic of Iran	10	3	30%	147	79	54%
Liberia	0	0	0%	2	0	0%
Mercenaries	0	0	0%	73	28	38%
Migrants	13	9	69%	247	160	65%
Minority issues	11	5	45%	242	143	59%
Myanmar	2	1	50%	109	55	51%
Older persons	0	0	0%	2	2	100%
Palestinian territories occupied since 1967	1	0	0%	42	8	19%
Poverty	7	6	86%	66	49	74%
Privacy	0	0	0%	17	16	94%
Racism	6	5	83%	128	79	62%
Religion or belief	8	3	38%	443	267	60%
Sale of children	2	1	50%	61	23	38%
Sexual orientation and gender identity	0	0	0%	1	0	0%
Slavery	4	3	75%	46	27	59%
Somalia	0	0	0%	19	6	32%
Sudan	3	0	0%	36	6	17%
Terrorism	5	2	40%	283	134	47%
Torture	30	13	43%	2175	1179	54%
Trafficking in persons	2	0	0%	78	45	58%
Truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence	1	1	100%	41	25	61%
Unilateral coercive measures	0	0	0%	2	2	100%
Violence against women	4	2	50%	540	289	54%
Water and sanitation	3	1	33%	85	55	65%
Women in law and in practice	6	3	50%	186	93	50%

(*) mandate re-established in June 2012, (**) mandate terminated, (***) mandate name changed from 'toxic waste'

(+) These figures do not include communications on standard cases sent to Governments by the Working Group on arbitrary detention and the Working Group on enforced or involuntary disappearances.

Please note: Totals are higher than the actual number of communications sent or replies received in the given period, as many communications are sent jointly by two or more mandate holders.

II. Communications sent and replies received

Communications sent between 1 December 2016 and 28 February 2017 and their replies received until 30 April 2017. Also all replies received during this period to communications sent before 1 December 2016

12. All communications and their replies are available through Special Procedures communications website at the link

https://spcommreports.ohchr.org

Appendix

Mandates of special procedures *(until 31 March 2017)*

Mandate title	*Human Rights Council resolution*
Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context	34/9
Working Group of Experts on people of African descent	27/25
Independent Expert on the enjoyment of human rights of persons with albinism	28/6
Working Group on Arbitrary Detention	33/30
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus	32/26
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Cambodia	30/23
Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Central African Republic	33/27
Independent Expert on capacity-building and technical cooperation with Côte d'Ivoire	26/32
Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights	28/9
Independent expert on the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order	27/9
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea	34/24
Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities	26/20
Special Rapporteur on right to development	33/14
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea	32/24
Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances	27/1
Independent expert on the effects of foreign debt and other related international financial obligations of States on the full enjoyment of human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights	34/3
Special Rapporteur on the right to education	26/17
Special Rapporteur on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment	28/11
Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights	26/3
Special Rapporteur on the right to food	32/8
Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression	34/18
Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association	32/32

Mandate title	*Human Rights Council resolution*
Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief	31/16
Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Haiti (Mandate formally closed by HRC President Statement : PRST 34/1)	PRST 25/1
Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health	33/9
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders	34/5
Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers	26/7
Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples	33/12
Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons	32/11
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran	34/23
Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Mali	34/39
Working Group on the use of mercenaries	33/4
Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants	34/21
Special Rapporteur on minority issues	34/6
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar	34/22
Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons	33/5
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967	S/1
Special Rapporteur on the right to privacy	28/16
Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation & guarantees of non-recurrence	27/3
Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance	34/35
Special Rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children, including child prostitution, child pornography and other child sexual abuse material	34/16
Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery	33/1
Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity	32/2
Independent Expert on human rights and international solidarity	26/6
Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Sudan	33/26
Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Somalia	33/17
Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions	26/12

Mandate title	*Human Rights Council resolution*
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic	S-18/1
Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism	31/3
Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment	34/19
Special Rapporteur on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes	27/23
Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children	26/8
Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises	26/22
Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of the unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights	27/21
Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences	32/19
Working Group on the issue of discrimination against women in law and in practice	32/4
Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation	33/10